

BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>WANRack, LLC 4550 W. 109th, Suite 115, Overland Park, KS 66221</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>
	<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>
	<p>Date: December 1, 2021</p>
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>	
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>	
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p>Blake Mayfield</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Director of Business Development</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> <p><i>Blake Mayfield</i></p>	<p>Phone (913) 660 - 6085</p> <p>Date</p> <p>March 16, 2022</p>

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name WANRack, LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$2,984,250
Federal Employer Identification No. 38-3904798	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$0 (WANRack is making a \$360,000 in-kind contribution by giving this project access to the fiber we are building down to a POP in Thorp to create allow multiple service providers access to this project)
Contact Name and Title Blake Mayfield – Director of Business Development	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$2,984,250
Telephone Number 913-660-6085	Project Name WANRack - Taylor County Broadband
E-mail Address(es) Blake.mayfield@wanrack.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant *same as above	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last-Mile
Grant Manager Contact Name Blake Mayfield	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number Blake.mayfield@wanrack.com 913-660-6085
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations WANRack is applying for this grant in a public-private partnership with Taylor County, WI. The County's address is 224 South Second Street, Medford, WI 54451. Michael Bub is the contact as the County. His email address is michael.bub@co.taylor.wi.us and his phone number is 715-965-7748. The County's FEIN is 39-6005746.	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) WANRack is proposing to leverage the middle-mile network we are constructing in Taylor County to build Fiber to the Home to every housing unit in Rib Lake. WANRack and the County view this as Phase 1 of multiple FTTH projects in the County!	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 1Gb (symmetrical)	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 1Gb (symmetrical)
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 250mbps (symmetrical)	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 250mbps (symmetrical)
County or Counties served by this project Taylor County, WI	Community or Communities served by this project The City of Rib Lake, WI

<p>List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve</p> <p>1) Frontier Communications</p> <p>2) Country Wireless</p> <p>Both are offering slower speeds than the FCC's new goal of getting 100mbps to every home.</p>	
<p>Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes. In fact, 21.80% of households in Rib Lake do not have internet access.</p>	<p>Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 95 businesses</p>	<p>For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 650 households</p>
<p>Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i>? n/a</p>	<p>Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i>? Currently 21.80% of households in Rib Lake do not have internet access. We are planning to connect 650 in this project. Therefore, roughly 136 homes that are unserved today will be connected.</p>
<p>For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes.</p>	<p>Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes.</p>
<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) No. WANRack is not currently offering internet services in WI (only fiber networks)</p>	<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) No. WANRack is not currently offering internet services in WI (only fiber networks)</p>
<p>Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) No. WANRack is not currently offering internet services in WI (only fiber networks) so there was nothing for us to upload.</p>	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant: WANRack	Project: WANRack - Taylor County Broadband

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 260,000.00		\$ 260,000.00
2	Equipment	\$ 346,250.00		\$ 346,250.00
3	Supplies	\$ 702,000.00		\$ 702,000.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 1,538,000.00		\$ 1,538,000.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 90,000.00		\$ 90,000.00
6	Travel	\$ 24,000.00		\$ 24,000.00
7	Other	\$ 24,000.00		\$ 24,000.00
Total:		\$ 2,984,250.00	\$ -	\$ 2,984,250.00
0.0% match requested				

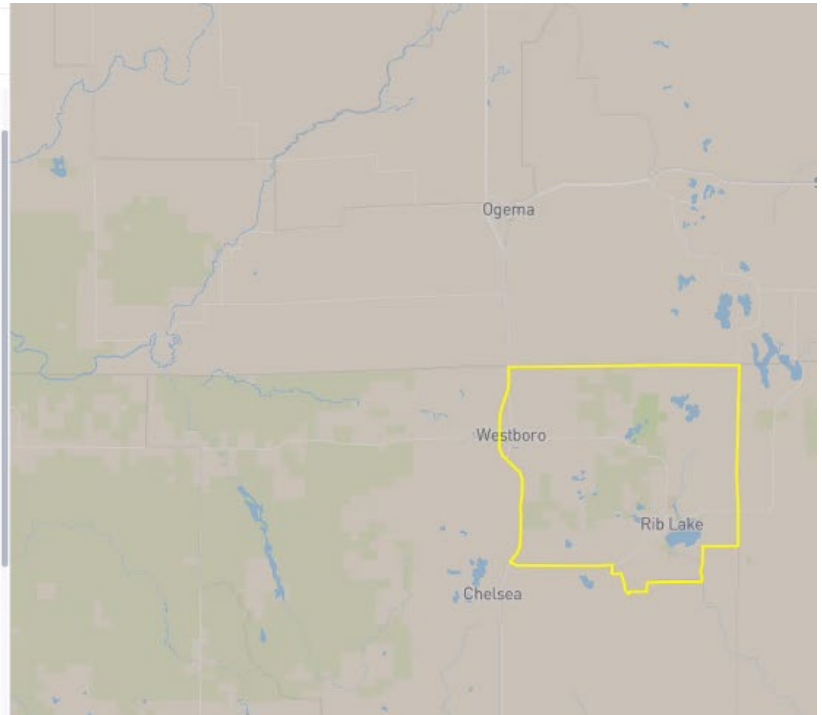
Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Taylor County	Partner	In-Kind	Taylor County will make an in-kind contribution by allowing the Rib Lake FTTH project to utilize over 40 miles of their Middle-Mile network (SW portion of the network up to Rib Lake)
2	WANRack	Applicant	In-Kind	WANRack will make an in-kind contribution by allowing the Rib Lake FTTH project to utilize over 6 miles of the fiber we built from the SW portion of Taylor County's network to Thorp

MAP OF PROJECT BOUNDARIES

CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS

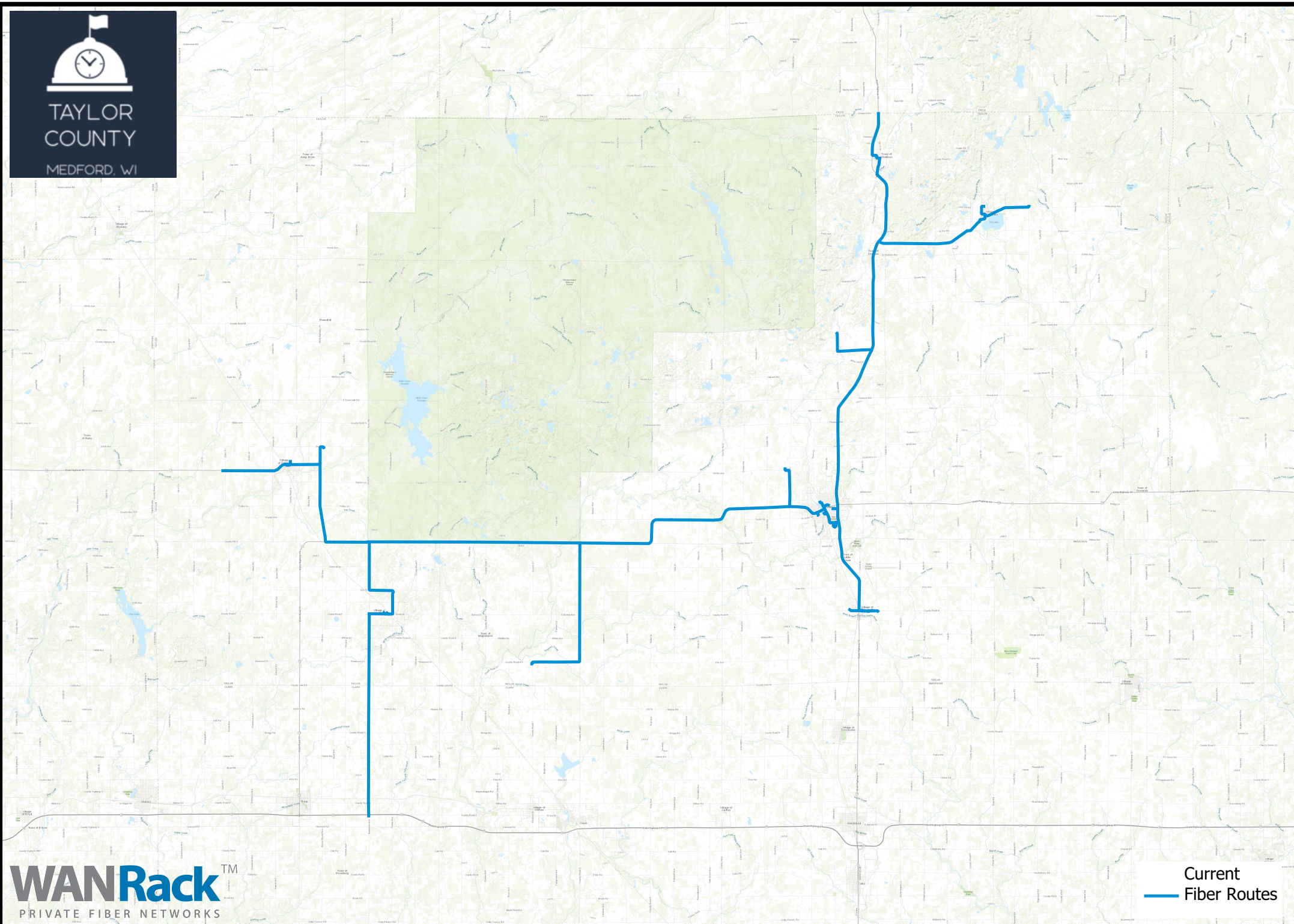
Businesses	100
Residences	817
2-9 Employees	106
Housing Units	953
Lit Buildings	10
Business Firms	166
1500+ Employees	0
Total Locations	903
Total Providers	3
Wireless Towers	0
10-149 Employees	15
Area (Sq. Miles)	35.2
Total Road Miles	152.9





TAYLOR
COUNTY

MEDFORD, WI



WANRackTM
PRIVATE FIBER NETWORKS

Current
Fiber Routes

APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT

WANRack has extensive knowledge of both federal funding programs and private fiber networks needed to execute the requirements of the county's request for broadband network services. Our executive management team has more than 182 years of proven demonstrable successes. They have delivered over 200 turn-key networks across 24 states.

ABOUT WANRack

Since 2005, the WANRack executive management team has constructed and delivered more than 200 robust fiber-optic networks that traverse the nation, from Florida to Washington state, and Arizona to Connecticut. WANRack is regulated by Public Service Commissions in each state and also by the Federal Communication Commission, with periodic reporting requirements and service standards. WANRack is a certified service provider with more than 15 years of experience working with federal funding programs for broadband infrastructure.

Headquartered in the Kansas City metro area, WANRack's executive management has been providing Private Fiber WANs since 2005. WANRack is privately held and backed by CBRE Caledon.

WANRack's private networks typically involve providing fiber connectivity between multiple facility locations under long-term lease agreements. WANRack works closely with each customer to design and build wide-area network solutions to best meet their individual needs, providing networks with unmatched flexibility, scalability, security, and control. WANRack has significant experience with federal E-Rate program guidelines. Their executive management has a proven history of successful completion of fiber optic construction projects.

ABOUT CBRE CALEDON

CBRE Caledon Capital Management Inc. is the majority owner and financial backer of WANRack. They are a leading infrastructure and private equity solutions provider, creating long-term value for clients by accessing and managing high-quality investment opportunities and building comprehensive infrastructure and private equity portfolios. Today, their dedicated team of 52 professionals represents \$8.5 billion on behalf of institutional investors globally. CBRE Caledon is a separate business unit within CBRE's independently operated investment management subsidiary, CBRE Global Investors.

QUALIFICATION OF STAFF

WANRack has a dedicated team of experts assigned to this project, start to finish. For this project, we've named Sherrie Lynn as your Project Manager, and Sean Brown, VP of Construction at Corporate along with our executive management team. This team has over 82 years of combined experience.

The following is a summary of each discipline within WANRACK which will be responsible for the execution of your county project.

WANRack's staff has vast experience building fiber WANs coming from several disciplines. WANRack's

executive management has been building fiber WAN's since 2005, and has built over 200 private networks across 24 states. The original owners came from the utility industry and have experience working in the ROW space from engineering to acquisitions.

Our outside plant team has extensive prior experience developing their skill sets with large telecom companies prior to joining the WANRack team. All have overseen significant large-scale builds for customers and imbedded network plant totaling thousands of miles across the Midwest. The VP's of Outside Plant have responsibility for all aspects of the construction and maintenance of current and future builds. Their knowledge of the inner workings of the engineering process, permitting, and ROW negotiations, provides WANRack with many intangibles translating into consistent on-time deliverables and long term satisfied customers.

The sales team is led by our founder, Rob Oyler. He has extensive experience selling wide area networks as well as intimate knowledge of the E-Rate program. Mr. Oyler has been in this space for 24 years selling fiber WANs to wireless companies such as Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, and T-Mobile. He also has been very successful selling WANs in the K-12 space for the last 15 years and has been very involved in the E-Rate process. His success has been in large part due to WANRACK's unique value proposition and experience in the education space. For the Taylor County Project, you can be assured ARPA funding request and paperwork is being handled by a very competent team of professionals working proactively to ensure continued eligibility.

WANRack's executive management, as noted above, has been building private fiber WANs for customers since 2005. Our team has extensive experience delivering E-Rate eligible projects for over 200 individual turn-key projects to date. WANRack's unique approach to designing the network and delivering a turn-key solution is what sets us apart from other options. Bottom line, a WANRack delivered solution is second to none.

At the end of the day, we believe the county will find WANRack to be a very capable and experienced team with the know how to execute a disciplined and timely build from the groundbreaking to turn up and beyond. Building fiber WANs for clients is our core competency and main focus. Other companies cannot make this claim. It is this single goal that will ensure the success of your county network.

PROJECT BUILD PLAN

Securing access for WANRack to utilize the ROW from the city and county (if needed) is the first step for field engineering process. This process will take approximately 4-8 weeks depending on the requirements of each individual entity. If there are no significant impediments to WANRack obtaining the ROW agreements, most entities will provide their process for obtaining permits and any ordinances related to their requirements for outside plant construction before the agreement is finalized.

Additionally, WANRack will have to obtain pole attachment agreements to attach to poles that will be utilized in the fiber deployment plan. These agreements include a section outlining Make Ready requirements for attaching to the poles. A secondary pole attachment agreement with the local phone service provider may be required in some areas. If not, a contract for Make Ready services may be required. Generally, it is not required to have a pole attachment agreement with a CATV company, but there may be a need to have a contract for Make Ready services.

WANRack will proceed with the field engineering and design process when the OSP requirements have been obtained from the city, county, and pole owners. This process will include obtaining all the information regarding distance, location, running line, proposed vault placement, locations of streets, driveways, sidewalks, and any significant obstructions for the underground construction. The aerial construction will require all the information regarding distance, location, running line,

locations of the poles with measurements taken to determine the attachment height of existing utilities, the proposed WANRack attachment height and noting any Make Ready work that will need to be completed to enable WANRack to attach to the pole. Measurements will be taken at streets and driveways to ensure WANRack's facilities comply with NESC and any local ordinances in place.

When the field engineering information is gathered and processed by the engineering company, the fiber design, bill of materials, and splicing documentation drawings will be prepared and submitted to the customer for review and sign off.

After the customer has signed off on the design plan for the Outside Plant ("OSP") fiber network, the materials will be ordered and delivered to WANRack at a staging site located in the project area. WANRack has had several conversations with its vendors and suppliers and they have indicated that delivery times are in the normal 3-4 week timeframe and they do not anticipate any significant delays for the foreseeable future.

WANRack will submit applications for permits to the city and county when required; concurrently WANRack will submit pole attachment applications to the pole owners. Part of the pole application process for aerial construction work includes the Make Ready review, engineering, and performance phases. Depending on the required work, any of the previously attached utility owners may be called upon to do some level of rearrangement work at various locations to ensure WANRack's facilities will be in compliance with the NESC and local ordinances.

The Make Ready process can take from 30 to 180 days depending on the willingness of the attached utilities to perform the work in a timely manner. WANRack's executive management has been very successful in obtaining temporary attachment work-around privileges on poles with non-life threatening infractions during the Make Ready performance phase, but some utilities do not allow work-around solutions to be utilized and WANRack may be required to wait until all of the Make Ready work is completed.

When permits have been issued by the various permitting entities the Underground OSP, Aerial OSP, and building entrance work will commence. The aerial, underground, and building entrance work may be performed either concurrently or independently due to the complexity of the project and/ or various site conditions. When the OSP infrastructure has been completed the fiber cable will be installed. The fiber cable will then be spliced and tested. The endpoint user equipment will be installed and tested back to the core site (Hub) and from core site (Hub) to the Edge site location to ensure the integrity and ability of the completed fiber link to deliver the intended services.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance schedules are developed based on the complexity of the network and associated equipment.

Problem resolution procedures are developed specifically for each individual customer based on the Level of Service requirements as agreed to in the contract. Outside plant failures are treated on an individual case basis due to the complexity and multiple factors outside of WANRack's control (storms, pole damage, cable cuts, accidents) there is no simple method to resolution for all situations. WANRack recognizes this situation and will enter into repair and maintenance contracts with Outside Plant contractors in the local area with a 3 hour response time incorporated into the contracts. WANRack's availability of WAN services to customers will exceed 99.99% up time.

As this is a full turn-key solution, sites will be turned up and replace existing services on a per site basis once the Hub locations are operational and all OTDR testing and equipment operational abilities have been performed. A cut over time will be established with the county for each site as they come online.

WANRack's turn up time, once advance work has been completed, is literally minutes as WANRack removes the current WAN to LAN connection and replaces it with the new WAN connection and jumper. WANRack will work with the county to minimize interruption with normal business hours and to perform this work after hours or on weekends if so desired.

In summary, WANRack feels we are the best positioned to deliver this Fiber WAN, with a long-term solution, in a well-executed way. Our experience and core focus has been delivering like solutions in this specific market place. At WANRack, we are project management experts. Our team is made up of industry veterans with extensive experience building WANs and working through the complexities of the E-Rate process. WANRack's goal on every project is to under promise and over deliver. We look forward to presenting further details of our proposal orally. Thanks again for the opportunity.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In 2019, supervisor Mike Bub requested the Taylor County board to address the lack of affordable high speed broadband internet in the county. The county created the Taylor County Broadband Committee to evaluate the issue and make a recommendation.

That same year, the committee put together a study and reached out county-wide to residents to gather public input. Based on the results of the broadband study, 82% of respondents say they are not satisfied with the overall service and value of their current internet provider.

By October 2020, Taylor County board supervisors voted 17-0 to fund a broadband initiative with a \$9.5 million bond and issued an RFP. With their vote, the county's main objectives were to deploy a middle-mile broadband network to attract economic development to the region. Also, they wanted to encourage competition by increasing the number of internet service providers in the area who could offer affordable connectivity options and increased bandwidth to as many of the 21,000 county residents as possible.

After reviewing proposals related to the RFP, the county selected WANRack as their fiber provider in December 2020. The county and WANRack have formed a public/private partnership to create a 90+ mile "middle mile" network through the county. The network will serve as the backbone connecting Taylor County and allowing for the expansion of services to homes and businesses throughout the county. Construction on the 90+ mile middle-mile network build began in June and is expected to be completed in December. The county will enjoy an 11.25% revenue share off the network.

The middle mile network is nearing completion. In fact, the Medford School District is already up and running. The rest of the network will be completed by June at the latest. Therefore, WANRack and the County are actively looking for ways to leverage this network to start offering last-mile services.

As an in-kind donation, WANRack has also completed a six-mile build to connect the network to the POP in Thorp. This will connect the county's network to multiple internet providers. WANRack will allow the Rib Lake FTTH project to access this connection for free.

In the County's Broadband Study Report, respondents emphatically stated, if there was an alternative, they are willing to switch providers. In fact, 94% of respondents indicated they would switch providers given the opportunity. The county is very optimistic about the take-rate for this project. 76% of respondents indicated they would switch providers if their internet service was in the range of \$21-80/month. WANRack is offering symmetrical speeds ranging from 250mbps to 1Gb with pricing options in this range.

The County has spent time and resources developing a multi-step plan to close the digital divide in their community. WANRack fully supports the County's application with Bug Tussel to close the ring around the County and offer fixed wireless services. This project will provide internet access to some of the more rural areas of the community in the immediate future. Over the next 5-10 years, the County would like to start building out FTTH as fiber provides the fastest speeds and highest service reliability. We view the Rib Lake project as Phase 1 of this build out. As soon as WANRack has completed the Rib Lake FTTH build, we will continue to partner with the County to apply for additional grants to build FTTH in other cities around the County!

WANRack has included the Taylor County Broadband Study Report below:

August 22, 2019

Taylor County Broadband Study – Report



Current Internet Subscribers Experience

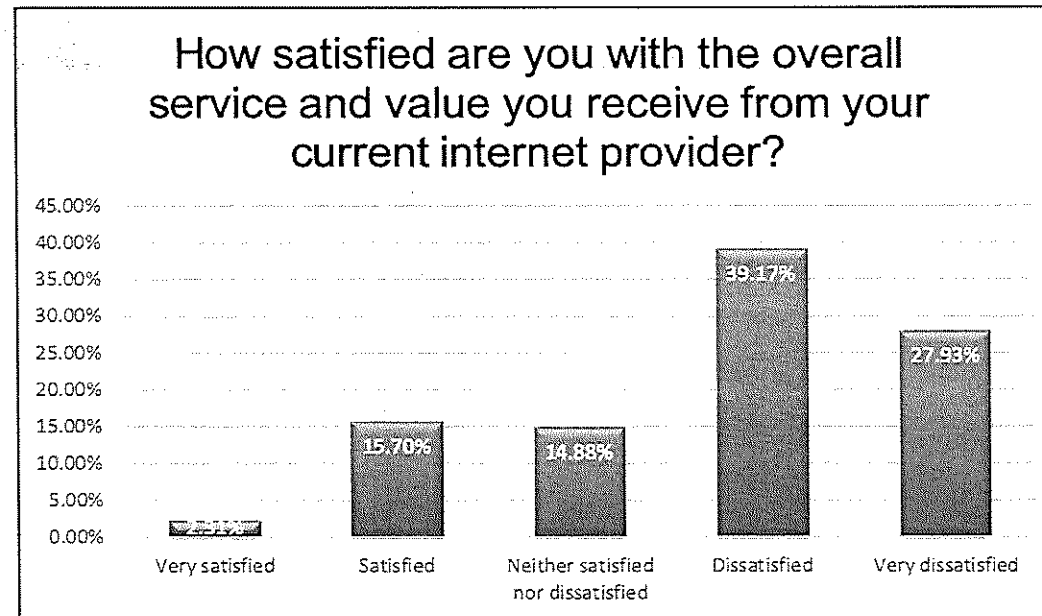
Only 6% have a connection that meets all needs

Statement	Percentage
My internet connection is so slow it is difficult to do anything other than view web pages	41%
I can stream video with some delays and buffering	23%
My connection is fine during certain times of the day, slow during peak periods	14%
My internet connection is fast until there are multiple internet users streaming/doing tasks online at the same time	9%
My internet connection is adequate, but I cannot stream video	7%
My internet is fast and meets all of my needs, including video streaming	6%



Overall Satisfaction

18% of respondents are either very satisfied or satisfied with the overall service and value they receive from their current provider.



Would Respondents Switch Providers?

94% of respondents indicated that they would switch providers

Price Ranges	What Respondents Want to Pay	What Respondents Currently Pay
\$21 to \$40	15%	12%
\$41 to \$60	33%	29%
\$61 to \$80	28%	24%
\$81 to \$100	18%	13%
\$100 to \$125	4%	4%
Over \$125	2%	4%



Key Findings From Outreach

There are significant gaps in service throughout the County that result in poor broadband connectivity for government facilities, homes and businesses. Current providers are not meeting the needs and/or expectations of many residents – even in the more densely populated areas. Satisfaction levels with current providers are extremely low – even for similarly situated rural areas. Only 6% stated that they have a connection that meets all their needs.

Many survey respondents feel that the continued growth and success of the area will be directly impacted by the ability to improve broadband service for current and future residents. Businesses report that the economy and workforce are impacted by poor broadband availability including attracting new employees and families.

Internet plans for residents and businesses are expensive and mobile broadband, fixed wireless and satellite technologies present speed and latency issues for many customers. There is a potential to forge partnerships with one or more providers including electric utilities to address the broadband problems detailed in this Report.

Residents are looking to local government for support and involvement in improving broadband speeds in the area.

In addition, 219 respondents submitted open-ended comments that express a wide-range of opinions regarding their current concerns and need for better broadband.



EXISTING BROADBAND SERVICE

Taylor County as a whole is one of the most underserved counties in the State of Wisconsin. Rib Lake's residents in particular have limited broadband options.

Two of the providers in this area are Frontier Communications and Country Wireless. Frontier currently offers service via wireline. Their advertised speeds at 12.0 mbps download and 1.0 mbps upload. Country Wireless currently offers fixed wireless services. Their advertised speeds are 50 mbps download and 6.0 mbps upload.

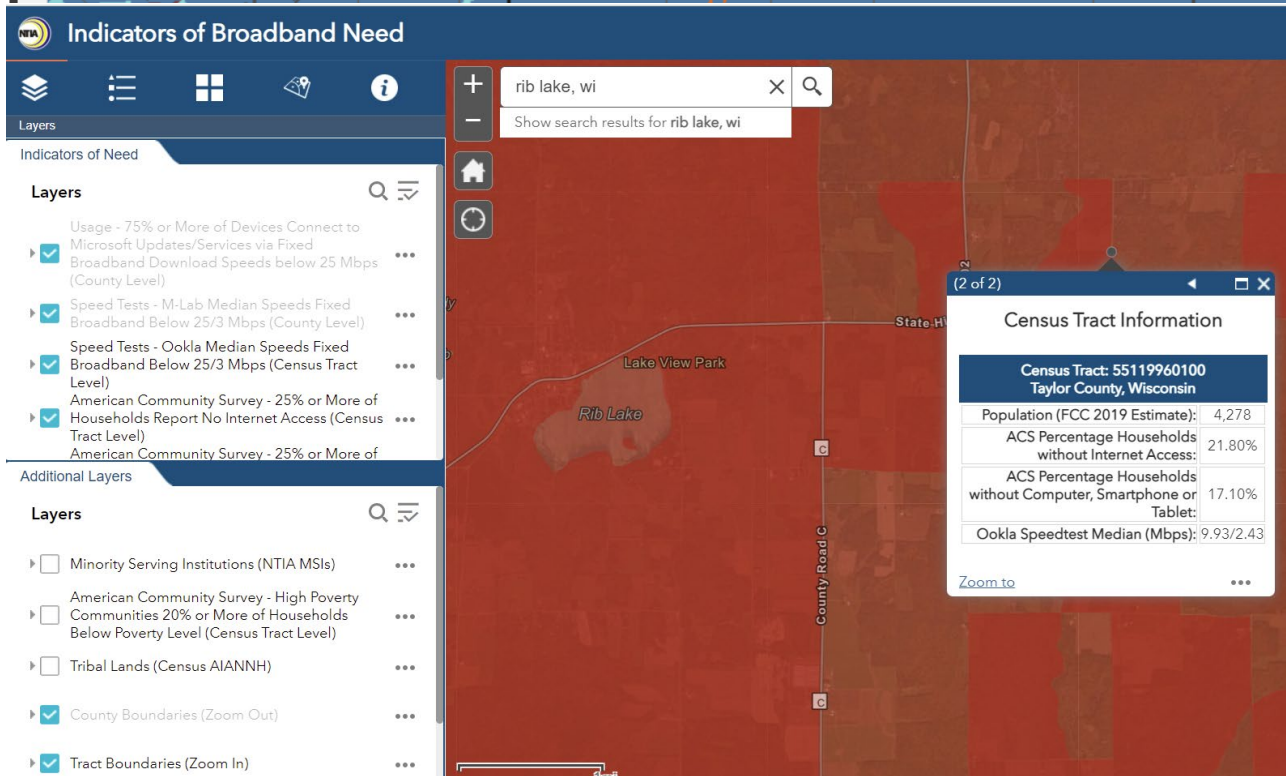
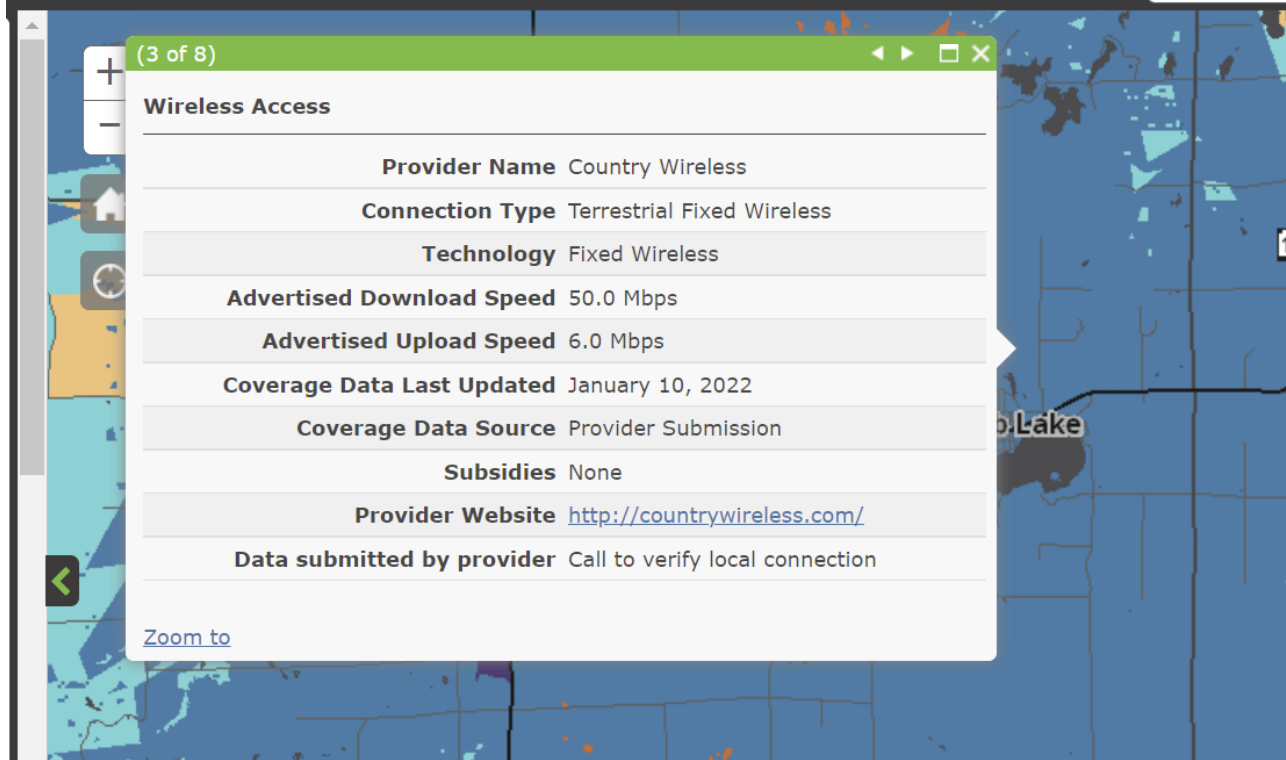
WANRack is proposing to build Fiber to the Home to every household in Rib Lake. We will offer symmetrical speeds ranging from 250 mbps to 1Gb. Over 20% of the households in the area currently do not have internet access today. We believe this project will close the digital divide. There are more homes and businesses in the greater Rib Lake area than this, but our initial goal would be to connect 650 homes and 95 businesses.

Please see a summary of the broadband services currently offered in Rib Lake below:

The screenshot shows a web application from the Wisconsin Broadband Office. At the top, it says "Public Service Commission of Wisconsin | Wisconsin Broadband Office" and has a search bar with the text "Enter a Place". Below this is a map of Wisconsin with a pop-up window titled "(2 of 8)" and "Wireline Access". The pop-up window contains the following information:

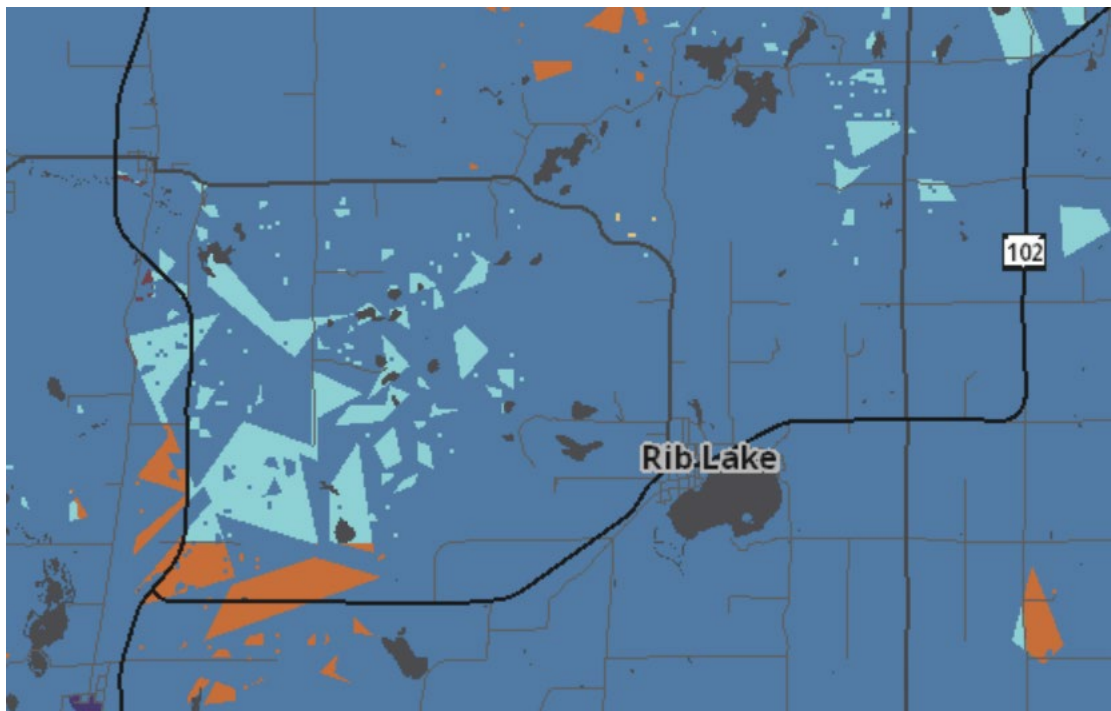
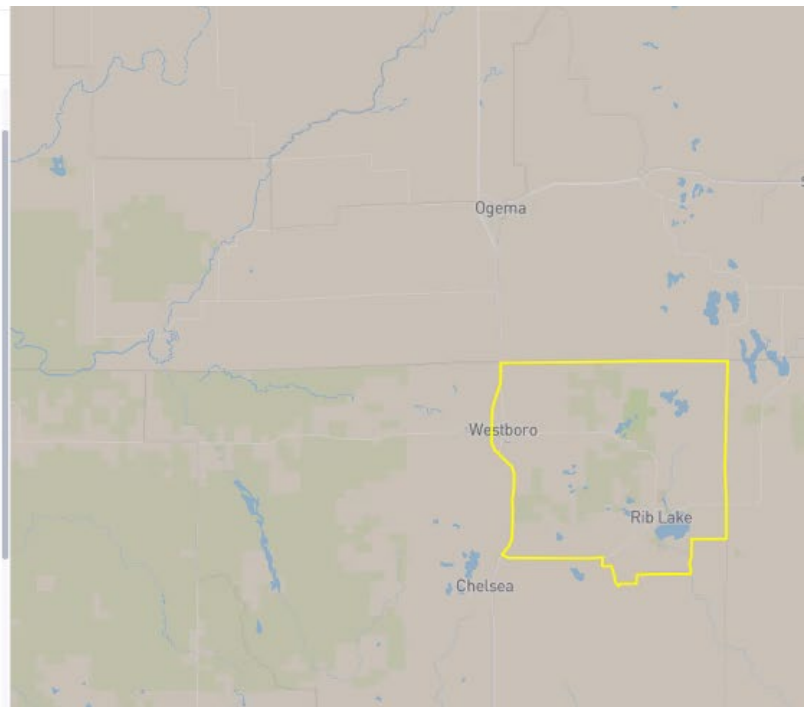
Provider Name	Frontier Communications
Connection Type	ADSL2, ADSL2+
Technology	Wireline
Advertised Download Speed	12.0 Mbps
Advertised Upload Speed	1.0 Mbps
Coverage Data Last Updated	June 30, 2021
Coverage Data Source	Provider Submission
Subsidies	None
Provider Website	https://frontier.com/
Data submitted by provider	Call to verify local connection

At the bottom of the pop-up window, there is a link that says "Zoom to". The background map shows the location of Rib Lake, Wisconsin, with a road labeled "102".



CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS

Businesses	100
Residences	817
2-9 Employees	106
Housing Units	953
Lit Buildings	10
Business Firms	166
1500+ Employees	0
Total Locations	903
Total Providers	3
Wireless Towers	0
10-149 Employees	15
Area (Sq. Miles)	35.2
Total Road Miles	152.9



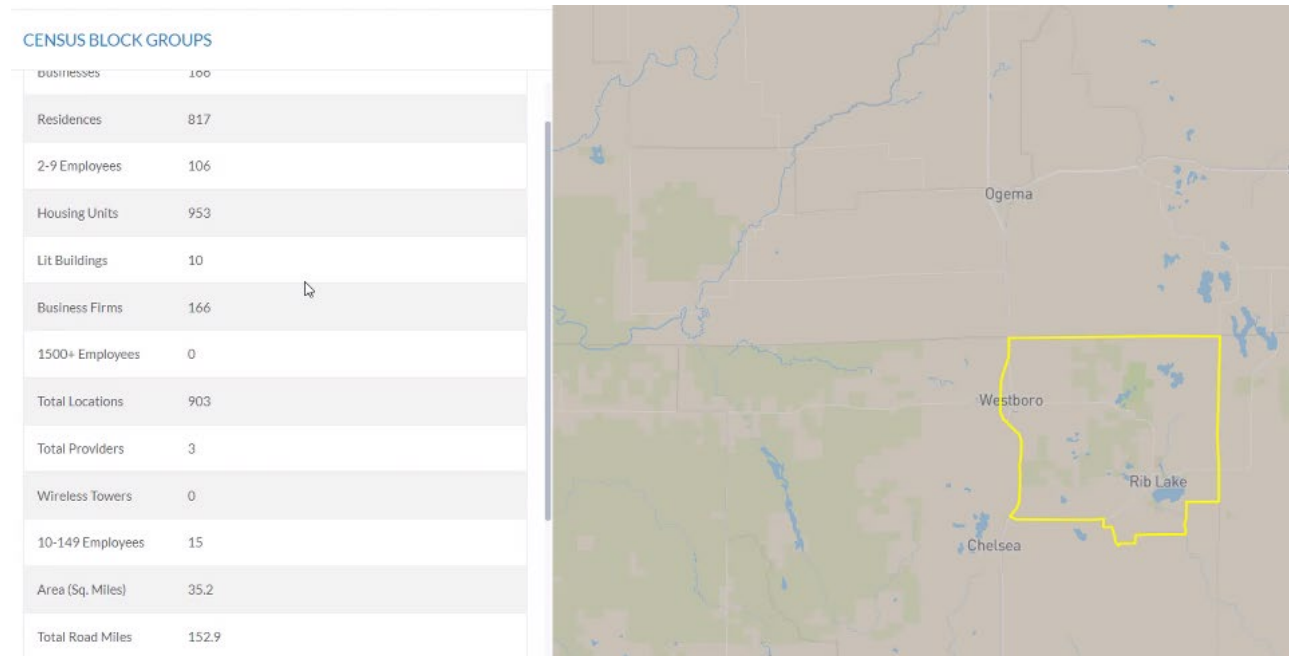
PROJECT IMPACT

Rib Lake is a small city located in Taylor County Wisconsin. With a 2020 population of 851, it is the 383rd largest city in Wisconsin and the 11005th largest city in the United States. Rib Lake is currently declining at a rate of -0.47% annually and its population has decreased by -6.48% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 910 in 2010. Spanning over 2 miles, Rib Lake has a population density of 488 people per square mile. (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/rib-lake-wi-population>)

One of the goals of the Taylor County Broadband Committee was to provide high speed internet access to residents so that they don't leave the County. We believe this project will encourage people to stay in Rib Lake and potentially build new homes here. We also believe this FTTH project will allow residents to work from home. Finally, the businesses located in Rib Lake will now have high speed internet and can grow their businesses without having to relocate.

This area is currently served by wireline and fixed wireless solutions. These technologies do not offer fast enough speeds for the modern world. The FCC is now considering 100mbps/home (minimum) the new goal. WANRack's fiber solution will offer symmetrical speeds of 250 mbps to 1Gbps. We will offer competitive pricing for these speeds ranging from \$65/month to \$90/month.

There are more homes and businesses in the greater Rib Lake area than this, but our initial goal would be to connect 650 homes and 95 businesses.



SCALABILITY

In 2019, supervisor Mike Bub requested the Taylor County board to address the lack of affordable high speed broadband internet in the county. The county created the Taylor County Broadband Committee to evaluate the issue and make a recommendation.

That same year, the committee put together a study and reached out county-wide to residents to gather public input. **Based on the results of the broadband study, 82% of respondents say they are not satisfied with the overall service and value of their current internet provider.**

In the County's Broadband Study Report, respondents emphatically stated, if there was an alternative, they are willing to switch providers. In fact, 94% of respondents indicated they would switch providers given the opportunity. Therefore, the County is very optimistic about the take-rate for this project.

The County has spent time and resources developing a multi-step plan to close the digital divide in their community. WANRack fully supports the County's application with Bug Tussel to close the ring around the County and offer fixed wireless services. This project will provide internet access to some of the more rural areas of the community in the immediate future.

Over the next 5-10 years, the County would like to start building out FTTH as fiber provides the fastest speeds and highest service reliability. We view the Rib Lake project as Phase 1 of this build out. As soon as WANRack has completed the Rib Lake FTTH build, we will continue to partner with the County to apply for additional grants to build FTTH in other cities around the County! WANRack believes the fixed wireless project will upgrade bandwidth speeds in the County. However, this project would not overlap WANRack's FTTH project in Rib Lake. Our fiber solution can be scaled to 10Gbps and beyond per home in the future. We are proposing to build a scalable FTTH network in Rib Lake that is truly "future-proofed".

The County's study revealed that 76% of respondents indicated they would switch providers if their internet service was in the range of \$21-80/month. WANRack is offering symmetrical speeds ranging from 250mbps to 1Gb with pricing options in this range. Please see the next page for our proposed pricing:



RETAIL STRATEGY

Symmetrical Speeds | Matching Upload and Download

Speeds No Data Caps

& \$a Vdg!~*) #a cbh

) \$\$mbps - \$75/month

1Gbps - \$90/month

***'30 Day Trial (Money Back Guarantee)**

Free Professional Install

No Contract, No Credit Check

24x7x365 | Contact to Support Center

Up to 25x Faster Than Cable

Best Capacity | Best Coverage

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of the goals of the Taylor County Broadband Committee was to provide high speed internet access to residents so that they don't leave the County. We believe this project will encourage people to stay in Rib Lake and potentially build new homes here. Rib Lake is a great area for second homes. However, the committee has heard complaints that folks aren't interested in building a vacation home on the lake if they can't connect to the internet. We believe this project would allow these types of homes to be built which would expand the property tax base.

WANRack also believes this FTTH project will allow residents to work from home. Additionally, businesses located in Rib Lake will now have high speed internet and can grow their businesses without having to relocate.

This area is currently served by wireline and fixed wireless solutions. These technologies do not offer fast enough speeds for the modern world. The FCC is now considering 100mbps/home (minimum) the new goal. WANRack's fiber solution will offer symmetrical speeds of 250 mbps to 1Gbps. We will offer competitive pricing for these speeds ranging from \$65/month to \$90/month.

There are more homes and businesses in the greater Rib Lake area than this, but our initial goal would be to connect 650 homes and 95 businesses. The construction of this project, maintenance of the network, and professional equipment installation create job opportunities in the County. We have also included examples of the Co-Branding and planned advertising of this network to ensure residents are aware of the service. See examples below:

Illustrative Purposes Only

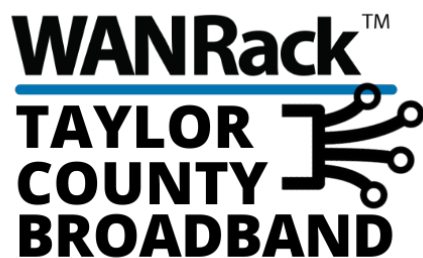
We have included a list of potential jobs created, job title, and projected salary:

- Direct job creation through the construction of broadband networks related to civil works and installation of network equipment.
 - Examples of Jobs Created:
 - GIS Specialist - US Average of 56k
 - Fiber Splicing Technician – US Average 54k
 - Permit Coordinator – US Average 39k
 - Customer Service – US Average \$18/hr
- Indirect job creation through incremental employment generated by businesses selling goods and services to those directly involved in broadband network construction.
 - Examples of Jobs Created:
 - Underground Utility Locator – US Average \$17/hr.
 - Customer Service (remote) – US Average \$38k
 - Sales Support Representative – US Average \$40k



CO-BRANDING

- Joint Press Releases
- Newsletters with Taylor County
- Direct Mailing- Inserts in utility bills
 - Kickoff
 - Fiber Ready
- Posts on both the County's website and WANRack's Social
- Share Construction Updates
- Events and Sponsorships
- Create a Co-Branded Logo
- Brand Awareness (See Next Page)



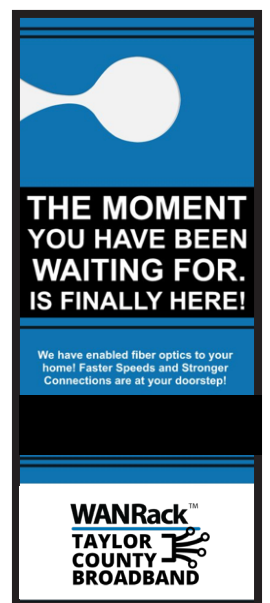


BRAND AWARENESS

Brand Awareness Neighborhood canvassing of yard signs, direct mail, emails, social media communities and other resources of Taylor County Partnership!

Branded Creative Resources:

Door Hangers
Direct Mailing
Company Branded Polos
Car Magnets
etc.



EFFECT UPON BROADBAND SERVICE ADJACENT AREAS:

WANRack's FTTH project in Rib Lake will not impair the ability of other broadband service providers to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to our proposed project area. In fact, WANRack is making an in-kind contribution of allowing Rib Lake to access the six mile of fiber we built to a POP in Thorp at no cost. There are multiple internet providers at this POP and we believe in Open-Access.

An Open-Access FTTH network allows the opportunity for multiple service providers to offer services to the homes in businesses we connect. In fact, WANRack has had conversations with Bug Tussel about swapping and leasing fibers from each other in Taylor County so that we can both offer services in different parts of the County. This collaboration allows residents of Taylor County as a whole, not just Rib Lake, to benefit from both Bug Tussel's and WANRack's proposed projects.

REFERENCES

Mike Bub - Taylor County, WI
715-965-7748
michael.bub@co.taylor.wi.us

Dennis Hinderliter - Medford Area School District, WI
715-748-4620
hinded@medford.k12.wi.us

Dan Schmidt - Lake Geneva Schools, WI
262-348-2180
daniel.schmidt@badger.k12.wi.us

Dean Farar - Yuma Schools, Yuma, AZ - 2 WAN builds
928-581-9685
dfaeae1@yumaed.org

Gorman Christian- Park Ridge-Niles School District 64
847-318-4244
gchristian@d64.org

Larry Fullmer - Chino Valley Schools, Prescott, AZ
928-636-2458
lfullmer@chinovalleyschools.com

Greg Rabenhorst - RE-3J Weld County, CO
303-536-2000
gregabenhorst@re3j.com

Jake Hoag - Whitley County Schools, IN
260-244-5771 ext 2310
hoagir@wccsonline.com

Mike Shepard - Agua Fria High School District, Phoenix, AZ
623-932-7154
mshepard@aguafria.org

Mack Robinson - Elko School District Schools, Elko, NV
775-738-5196
mrobinson@ecsdnv.net

Matt Derrick - Alton Community School District, Alton, IL
618-472-2600
mderrick@altonschools.org

Tony Witbrod - CCSD#1, Douglas, WY
307-365-7736
awitbrod@ccsd1.org

Tobin Brown - Kemp ISD, Kemp, TX
903-498-1351
tobin.brown@kempisd.org

Jack Wallbrecht - JO Combs, Phoenix, AZ
480-987-5313
jwallbrecht@jocombs.org

Jim Patterson - Sprint, Chicago IL, 5 WAN builds
816-210-0296
jim@pattersonadvice.com

**"IT IS CRAZY TO ME
THAT MORE SCHOOL
DISTRICTS AREN'T
USING WANRACK."**

- DAN BRYNILDSEN, TECHNOLOGY
COORDINATOR FOR ALTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**"WANRACK'S
SOLUTION IS UNIQUE
AND WILL BE THE
LAST NETWORK WE
EVER NEED, DUE TO
ITS SCALABILITY. "**

- DAN SCHMIDT, DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY FOR LAKE GENEVA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**"IT IS HARD TO SAY NO
WHEN GIVEN AN OPTION
THAT ALLOWS ME TO
FINALLY STOP SHARING
AND SETTling WHEN IT
COMES TO MY NETWORK. "**

- LUIS TENORIO, NETWORK
ADMINISTRATOR FOR SOMERTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROJECTS OF SIMILAR SIZE AND SCOPE

WANRack's Executive Management team has over 16 years of experience selling and installing Private WANs for the K-12 market. Our Executive Management team has sold and built over 200 school districts nationwide since 2005.

The following recent projects are a snapshot of small and large projects, each with unique engineering, permitting, and construction characteristics.

Hernando County Schools – Brooksville, FL

Contact: Paul Leftwich
253-797-7272 ext 870444
leftwich_p@hcsb.k12.fl.us
Contract length: 10 years
Network size – 56.37 miles
Contract value: **\$5,589,080**

Hernando County is a county wide school district unlike most districts in other parts of the country. Hernando's network spread is consistent with a dozen or more school districts in the Midwest. As a result, permitting and environmental studies are a large focus here. The county will be adding over 40 sites to this network in parallel to the build. This additional revenue has not been included in the contract value above.

Yuma Union High School District & Yuma Elementary School District – Yuma, AZ

Contact: Dean Farar, Director of Technology
928-502-4250
dfarar1@yumaed.org
Contract length: 5 + 5 years
Network size – 33 miles, 26 locations
Contract value: **\$4,930,440**

This project consists of a new Private Fiber WAN build across two school districts. There are 26 locations spanning 33 miles of new construction throughout Yuma, AZ. Yuma schools was looking for a robust WAN that wasn't part of an existing public network. They were pleasantly surprised to find an alternative provider in WANRack that provided a non-incumbent option. The 250 Gigabit design connects the CTC data center to all 25 edge sites at 10 Gig per location. Each edge site has dedicated fiber pairs home-run all the way back to the Hub location without sharing or oversubscription anywhere in the network. Furthermore, the robust WAN design enables the district the capability to expand bandwidth to a limitless extent in the future.

Elko School District – Elko, NV

Contact: Duane Barton
775-738-5196
dbarton@ecsdnv.net
Contract length: 5 + 5 years
Network size – 20.08 miles
Contract value: **\$4,204,920**

Elko county is our first network in Nevada and likely our most complex build to date. Permitting and environmental impact coordination became the biggest challenges. The network crossed federal properties, Indian land, mining operations, large swaths of private land, interstates, county roads, waterways, and protected wildlife areas. There were 26 separate easements negotiated along with over 50 separate permits. Two unique requirements mandated the establishment of decontamination stations for all trucks, drills, and equipment entering and leaving federal land. A separate challenge required the engagement of a wildlife specialist to monitor migrating and nesting birds along the installation route during construction. With all of these challenges and longer timelines, the project finished on time and under budget.

Agua Fria High School District – Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Mike Shepard
623-932-7154
mshepard@aguafria.org
Contract length: 5 + 5 years
Network size – 20.45 miles
Contract value: **\$3,260,960**

Agua Fria connects the high schools within this district. The network is built across 3 cities on the west side of Phoenix; Goodyear, Avondale, and Buckeye. Many complex waterway crossings and multiple city license agreements required coordinated efforts with varying specifications. WANRack has existing network on the east and south side of Phoenix. The new western networks now allow WANRack full reach throughout the Phoenix area.

Weld County RE-3J Schools, Keenesburg, CO

Contact: Greg Rabenhorst, Superintendent
303-536-2000
gregrabenhorst@re3j.com
Contract length: 10 years
Network size – 31 miles
Contract value: **\$3,180,000**

This private fiber WAN consisted of 31 miles of new fiber construction connecting 6 sites. WANRack worked with the district to design a future-proofed network which could solve their long-term bandwidth needs. The 50 Gig network delivers 10 gigs of unshared bandwidth to 5 edge sites on dedicated fiber pairs. The school now enjoys speeds never before attained with the previous wireless network. Additionally, they have locked in long term pricing and unlimited growth.

Alton Community School District – Alton, IL

Contact: Dan Brynildsen
618-433-7835
dbrynildsen@altonschools.org
Contract length: 10 years
Network size – 16.21 miles
Contract value: **\$2,298,960**

Alton, IL is a suburb of St. Louis on the Illinois side of the state line. Dan was very skeptical WANRack could build a Fiber Wide Area Network from scratch and be competitive. Not only were we competitive, with the best Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) over a 20-year period, we delivered a network with unlimited growth capacity. Our tagline, “The last network you will ever need, guaranteed”, was demonstrated yet again with this build. The Alton build was one our smoothest installs to date. Each project has its own personality. This one represented everything that can go almost perfect in a build.

Converse County School District, Aurora School District – Douglas, WY

Contact: Ken Reynolds, Director of IT
307-359-5682
jreynolds@ccsd1.org
Contract length: 10 years
Network size – 10 miles
Contract value: **\$768,600**

Converse County’s WAN consists of 5 miles of new plant build connecting 8 sites. This project presented several permitting and logistical challenges due to the schools being geographically situated in and around Mountainous terrain. WANRack delivered a compelling solution which was unmatched by the incumbent cable company. The district was thrilled to find a provider who could deliver a truly private network without oversubscription in a more remote area with limited competitive options.

Trenton School District – Trenton, MO

Contact: Kris Ockenfels, Director of IT
kockenfels@trentonr9.k12.mo.us
Contract length: 10 years
Network size – 3 miles
Contract value: **\$450,000**

This project consisted of 5 sites across 3 miles in a very congested area. The city has a unique geographic location in that there are 2 incumbent telephone companies, one cable company and city owned utility. As a result aerial poles were located on both sides of the roadways throughout town with a substantial amount of make ready work required to complete the network. After striking a license agreement with the city, WANRack came in on budget and ahead of schedule.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

March 10, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Water, Telecommunications, and Consumer Affairs Division
Post Office Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

Dear Public Service Commission:

Taylor County has presented us with a broadband plan that would go a long way to address the lack of high-speed internet access and connectivity for large portions their county in Northcentral Wisconsin through a partnership with service providers WANRack and Bug Tussel. We are writing to express our full support of their Broadband Expansion Grant application, which will be critically important to seeing this plan come to fruition.

Unfortunately, rural Taylor County currently has one of the lowest internet availability rates in Wisconsin. To address this problem, the County has already built a \$9 million middle mile network which allows them to provide fiber to the home as well as fixed wireless access to a portion of its residents.

Taylor County is now partnering with WANRack and Bug Tussel to invest an additional \$14 million to expand access to an overwhelming majority of county residents by the end of 2024. This project – known as the “ROAD to Digital Equity Project” – is the development of 76.2 miles of fiber-optic middle mile; completing a ring throughout Taylor County. This phase of the project will allow them to provide residents and businesses with speeds of up to one gigabyte along the route and will include complete coverage of Rib Lake, one of the largest municipalities in the county.

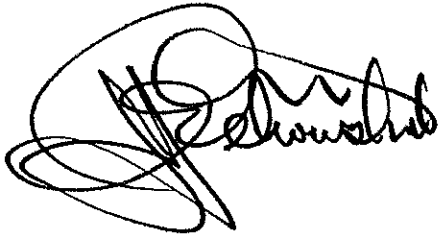
Funding this project in Taylor County will allow for enhanced healthcare, increased basic and higher educational opportunities through distance and virtual learning, and improved public safety assistance. As an underserved rural area with limited modern internet services, residents are facing many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources, compared to students in more urban areas. This project will also enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, and municipal offices. Therefore, it is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to assist in providing much-needed broadband service to this area.

Finally, the model Taylor County has presented is considered “open access” in order to encourage quicker deployment of countywide fiber to the premise. This factor is important as it encourages immediate economic opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

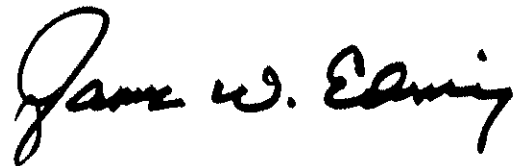
Therefore, we ask you to consider Taylor County's proposal for their fiber project. It would bring reliable high-speed, internet to many residents and businesses without current access, as well as offer tremendous benefits to the schools, hospitals, and communities across the county.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Petrowski", with a large, loopy flourish on the left side.

Senator Jerry Petrowski
29th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Edming", written in a cursive style.

Representative James Edming
87th Assembly District

To Pubic Service Commision:

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband Grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to the Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countrywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

I know this personally affects my business as I am ordering parts, doing invoices & working with my customers & business all day long with the internet. I also know this affects many other businesses in town & can affect business growth in the community. We must get better services to help get more businesses in town to help the community. I know it also affects the residents & the school in Rib Lake. There are many times when the internet capacity affects the learning ability of the kids at the school. At this time with progress being made in all capacities, it is not right that we do not have the ability to get better internet for the kids.

Thank you for your time.

Jamie Heiser

J & P Auto Inc.

Owner

715-427-5707

jpautoinc@fronternet.net



■ Managed Forests: Your Legacy. Their Future!

March 7, 2022

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter in support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiber optic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing new or better **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "**Open Access**" to encourage faster deployment of **countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

I have been a business owner in the Town of Rib Lake for the last 12 years. Broadband/DSL service has continually declined over those years with an increase cost for less service. During a time when online connection has become a staple for much of the World, we need to close the gap between the current condition of service/infrastructure provided and where the current demand is today. This next step in completing coverage is essential to our business being able to efficiently succeed.

Sincerely,

Peter Anderson

Peter Anderson

Sound Forest Management, LLC

W3643 Kapitz Rd.

Rib Lake, WI 54470

Phone: 715-681-0674

Email: peter@soundforestmanagement.com

Web: www.soundforestmanagement.com

www.soundforestmanagement.com

peter@soundforestmanagement.com

W3643 Kapitz Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470

715.681.0674

03.08.2022

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

I live in Rib Lake; I work in Price County but have the option to work from home certain days. If internet would be a faster, it would make it a lot easier for me and others to work from home. If we could get better/faster internet it would also help the students here in Rib Lake if they are home sick or unable to go to school for whatever reason.

Thank you,

Multitek North America, LLC

Lisa Sodoma

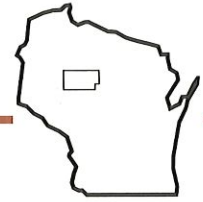
Accounting Department

715-428-2000 X-1220

lisa.sodoma@multitekinc.com



Taylor County Board



To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter to support the Taylor County Broadband Grant application. The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to **encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

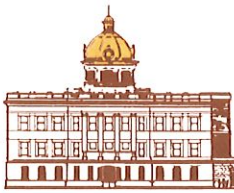
The grant application being submitted from Wanrack and Bug Tussell is supported by the Taylor County Board and the Taylor County Broadband Committee

Taylor County has already built a 9-million-dollar Middle Mile Network in parts of Taylor County. Parts of this network are already supporting some of the schools in Taylor County. The rest of the original network should be completed by June 30th 2022. This network will allow Taylor County to provide Fiber to homes and businesses along the middle mile network. The network will also enable us to use Fixed wireless access to provide high speed Broadband to some of the more rural areas of Taylor County. As you might know, Taylor County has some of the lowest internet access available to the residents in the State of Wisconsin.

Our plan is to invest up to an additional 14 million dollars to support bringing Broadband to Taylor County. This grant will help support bringing either FTH or fixed wireless internet to most of our residents by the end of 2024. This project would not be possible without the partnership of Taylor County, Wanrack, and Bug Tussell.

I sincerely hope you will consider funding this project in Taylor County.

Michael K Bub
Taylor County Board Supervisor
Taylor County Broadband Committee Chairman



Taylor County Clerk



ANDRIA FARRAND, COUNTY CLERK
715-748-1460 • andria.farrand@co.taylor.wi.us

Casey Belgram
Deputy County Clerk
casey.belgram@co.taylor.wi.us
715-748-1460

Jacky Peterson,
Payroll/Benefit Specialist
Deputy County Clerk
jacky.peterson@co.taylor.wi.us
715-748-1461

March 14, 2022

RE: WanRack/Taylor County Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in full support of the WanRack and Taylor County grant application.

Taylor County has already funded the construction of our Middle Mile Network, by borrowing \$9 million dollars, to ensure we have internet service available to all our residents.

We learned many things over the last two years, but the fact that much of our county does not have acceptable internet service was made very clear. Students struggled to learn virtually and many that were allowed to work from home were not able to, due to poor internet access or none at all.

The majority of our town halls do not have internet access, making it challenging to communicate with the municipal clerks on Election Day. We also cannot collect our election results as most counties in Wisconsin do, through a modem. The Clerks have to call their results into my office, often times after they get home since their cell phone also doesn't work at their town hall.

The lack of internet is also detrimental to the businesses in Taylor County, not only are they unable to update and upgrade software, or utilize online programs in some cases, but finding employees is a big problem. It is difficult to attract people to move to Taylor County without acceptable internet access. It is no longer a want, but a need.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our application.

Kind regards-

Andria Farrand
Taylor County Clerk

Farrand Andria

From: Rib Lake True Value <riblakehardware@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:24 AM
To: Farrand Andria
Subject: Letter for Broadband Grant

[Outside Sender]

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support for the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

My Taylor County retail hardware business, Rib Lake True Value, continues to be impacted negatively by the current lack of options for faster internet. As of today, my business has only one option for connection to an internet provider and, unfortunately, this one option connects at slow speeds that negatively impact my business. The following are specific examples of how my business would benefit from connecting to a faster internet.

1. The current slow internet upload speeds of less than 1Mbps, do not allow my business the choice of purchasing a lesser cost retail operating business software. As a result, a \$12,000 server was my business's only option. Of note, my retail operating software mandates that my store's credit card transmission utilize hard wired connectivity. A site-to-site ISP provider is not an option for my business.
2. The current slow internet speeds cause my wireless computers to randomly drop their connection. Consequently, the resulting stop in internet connection stops my employees and my business from working and forces both to wait until reconnection occurs.
3. The current slow internet speed does not allow my business to choose a retail operating system that backs up its data to the cloud. As a result, my business is forced to utilize CDs to store all daily sales, inventory and purchasing data. This method brings with it the inherent risk of catastrophic data loss if the CDs were to physically break for any reason.

Faster fiber optic internet speeds would benefit my business for the above reasons, while at the same time, helping to ensure that my business continues to provide a needed service within my local Taylor County community. The next closest retail hardware store for residents within the Rib Lake community is at minimum 20 miles away.

Thank you, Taylor County, for helping to bring faster fiber optic internet to my business and to my surrounding community.

Scott Schubert
Rib Lake True Value

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route.

This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "**Open Access**" to **encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

I own and operate Java Journey, a coffee shop located at 720 McComb Avenue, Rib Lake. We serve the people in Rib Lake, those that vacation in the area and the residents in the surrounding communities. This internet service would be a huge asset to our community; to residents and businesses alike. A broadband internet option that provides quality and fast internet service is a much needed and desired service in the Rib Lake community. As a business owner I often hear of the ongoing struggle many community people and many people that vacation here (and help boost our local economy) have with the current internet offerings.

In addition to being an asset to the people of Rib Lake, and to those that enjoy vacationing here and enjoying all our area has to offer, this broadband internet offering would be EXTREMELY helpful to me as a business owner. I use the internet all day for many of the day to day tasks of running Java Journey. I rely on the internet to run our phone system, run our credit card terminal, and daily ordering of products and supplies. Java Journey also offers the use of the internet to our customers, which is used by many people daily. An improved internet service to Rib Lake that Java Journey could use would be a huge benefit and step forward in the Rib Lake community.

Thank you,

Lori Henderson

Owner - Java Journey

720 McComb Ave

Rib Lake WI 54470

TO: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION;

**I'm writing this letter to support the Taylor County
Broadband grant Application.**

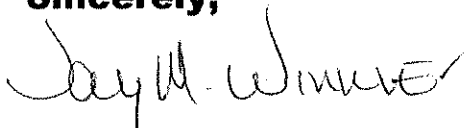
**Rib Lake Plywood, Inc. is truly affected by the poor service
we receive.**

**This in turn causes us to offer poor service to our
customers.**

**We are truly at a business disadvantage with the slow
service we currently have.**

Thanks so much for any help!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay M. Winkler", with a checkmark at the end.

Jay M. Winkler - Owner

Rib Lake Plywood, inc.

715-427-3787

americansportslaminate@frontier.com



104 E. Perkins
PO Box 172
Medford, WI 54451
715-748-4729

MEDFORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 17th, 2022

TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

I am writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along the route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

The City of Medford supports this project and eagerly anticipates the service to our outlying areas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Mike Wellner

City of Medford

715-748-4321



104 E. Perkins
PO Box 172
Medford, WI 54451
715-748-4729

MEDFORD AREA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

March 16th, 2022

TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

I am writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along the route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

The Medford Area Development Foundation believes that this project is imperative to moving our County forward. We fully support this project.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Emmerich, Executive Director
Medford Area Development Foundation
715-748-4729



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

N1831 State Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Telephone: 715-678-2411
Fax: 715-678-2555
Email: taylrec@tayloelectric.org

3-15-2022

I am writing in support of the Taylor County Broadband Committee for the grant applications to improve service to the rural areas of Taylor County. I am the CEO at Taylor Electric Cooperative and would like to share the situation that we have been in regarding rural broadband. As the COVID pandemic was on the upswing and it was recommended that we have as many employees as possible work from home, we did not have that option. All of my employees lived in the rural areas of Taylor County at the time. Most of my employee live within the service area of the incumbent communications provider TDS. TDS has determined that it is not profitable to serve areas outside the dense city with acceptable service. I live less than 2 miles from downtown Medford in a housing development, and yet the best service I see from TDS is about 1Mbps. The rest of my employees are in a similar situation or worse. TDS has cherry picked the high-density areas of the county and has no intent to serve the rest. The County Broadband Committee is dedicated to getting service to the "rest of us" and the assistance provided by the grants are imperative to the success of the project. Please support the needs of rural Taylor County by considering us to receive the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KENNY".

Kenneth Ceaglske
President/CEO

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to **encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

All of the above mentioned project will help bolster a better educational, business and residential atmosphere that will keep Taylor County an area that appeals to residents and the future workforce that is needed and completed for from all areas of the nation. A better communication network is a Must in our Community!

Thank You for helping us move forward!

Steven Deml

Town of Hammel Chairperson

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Aspirus Medford Hospital & Clinics in support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

As a rural health care provider, access to health care is a top priority. Without reliable internet in our communities, our patients won't have access to services via our telemedicine programs in lieu of in person visits. Reliable, high speed internet allows us to better service our patients by getting them the care they need, regardless of where they live.

Sincerely,

Aspirus Medford Hospital & Clinics
135 S Gibson Street
Medford, WI 54451

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

You can add your own comments about how Broadband would help Taylor County, your Town, Village. Also, you can provide and information about how business might helped

TOWN OF MEDFORD

CHARMAN

Stanley R Schmidt.

SUPERVISOR

Alvin C. Glie 03-08-22

SUPERVISOR

John A. Olson 3-8-22

DATED

3/8/2022



Medford Area Public School District

124 West State Street
Medford, WI 54451-1771
Telephone: (715) 748-4620
Fax: (715) 748-6839

District Website: www.medford.k12.wi.us
E-mail: sullipa@medford.k12.wi.us

Pat Sullivan, District Administrator
Audra Brooks, Dir. of Business Services
Laura Lundy, Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction
Joseph Greget, Dir. of Spec. Ed. & Student Services

03/10/2022

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband Grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiber optic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "open access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses. Even before the pandemic, our students struggled with completing online work at home, due to the lack of high speed internet. Therefore, many of our students would benefit by having broadband access for school, homework, and studying.

Sincerely,

Pat Sullivan
District Administrator



104 E. Perkins
PO Box 172
Medford, WI 54451
715-748-4729

March 10, 2022

To Public Service Commission,

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application. The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses. If the pandemic has taught us anything, we rely on internet in almost everything we do. It has shined a very bright spotlight on the ways it has not been working for us in this area. Virtual learning, working from home, Zoom meetings, scheduling appointments and juggling it all, the internet in our area is inadequate and in some spots non-existent. Our area would benefit immensely by having broadband readily available to the area and its residents.

Sincerely,

Billie Jean Hartwig
Vice President
Medford Area Chamber of Commerce



To Public Service Commission of Wisconsin;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "**Open Access**" to **encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

My business is relocating to Rib Lake from Madison, WI. Quality, high speed internet is essential in order for my business to operate in an efficient manner. Having access to better services will draw more people and businesses to Taylor County. Rural communities have been neglected far too long.

Sincerely,

Peter Meyer

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support for the Taylor County Broadband Grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster deployment of **countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

I own and run my own business where I sell industrial parts and accessories online through eBay and other e-commerce channels. My business and my family's livelihood depend on good consistent high speed internet. This fiberoptic high speed internet will be a huge blessing to our family and to our community. Today's economy is moving to the internet world, and adding this to Taylor County will make Taylor County attractive to people that can work remotely or who work from home, but need good reliable high speed Internet. Taylor County is a great place to raise a family and this will definitely positively effect the draw for people to move to and work here.

Sincerely,

Todd Henderson

Rib Lake Resident &

Owner - JBA Automation LLC

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage **faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

Our business, Personalized Treasures LLC, is a gift shop in the village of Rib Lake, that specializes in personalized products. We currently have a line of site internet, that goes out with bad weather. We are planning an online launch of products but have been hesitant because of the current service. We believe that online sales would help our business grow, so we can give back more to our community.

Our home is in a rural location, in the township of Greenwood, Taylor County. We have even worse internet service there. We have one child in high school, and it is difficult for her to do homework. We have satellite internet, but it is very spotty with the weather, and it is quite expensive.

In conclusion, the faster we can get broadband services to our area, the better. The whole community would benefit from it!

Sincerely,

Steve & Michelle Schreiner

Personalized Treasures LLC
814 McComb Ave
Rib Lake, WI 54470

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

My husband has his own logging business and faster internet will help me be able to complete tasks online for his business at a much faster speed. I also work from home and this will help me not have so much down time from such slow speeds.

Cameron Thums Logging
Cameron and Page Thums

Village of Rib Lake
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P.O. BOX 205
RIB LAKE, WI 54470
715-427-5404

March 7, 2022

To the Public Service Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of the Taylor County Broadband grant application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

As our community is doing many things to move forward and grow, high speed internet is a necessity. We are passionate about our community and feel that the opportunities that are provided elsewhere can also be provided here if we had the same internet access and speed as others. We would greatly appreciate your consideration to give us this opportunity to make our County the powerhouse that it truly can be.

Sincerely,



William Schreiner
Village of Rib Lake President

Village of Rib Lake
OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

P.O. BOX 205
RIB LAKE, WI 54470
715-427-5404

March 7, 2022

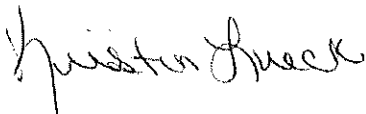
To the Public Service Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of the Taylor County Broadband grant application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

As the Village Clerk/Treasurer, I am continuously watching webinars or taking online training classes to keep up to date on the laws and opportunities available for our community. The greatest of the learning opportunities is the Clerks/Treasurers Institute. Unfortunately, due to Covid, that learning opportunity has switched from in person training to online training. As much as I would prefer to be doing in person training, it was understandable to make the change. However, our internet is not able to sustain such learning and I feel I missed at least half of the classes trying to keep my internet running. This is just one of many examples that I could come up with. We are a small community that could be doing so much more. One step would be for us to have high speed internet that is reliable. Please consider providing us with this grant opportunity to move our communities forward.

Sincerely,



Kristin Lueck
Village of Rib Lake
Clerk/Treasurer



TO: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION;

**I'm writing this letter to support the Taylor County
Broadband grant Application.**

**American Sports Laminate, LLC is truly affected by the poor
service we receive.**

**This in turn causes us to offer poor service to our
customers.**

**We need faster service, and service that does not drop us
every time we try to print UPS orders for our customers.**

**This causes orders to take hours instead of minutes to
process on our end....very costly in a time when we need to
be as efficient as possible.**

Thanks so much for any help!

Sincerely,

Niki Kutzke-Owner

American Sports Laminate, LLC

715-427-3787

americansportslaminate@frontier.com

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster **deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

Internet services are very limited in the Rib Lake Village and town. Our current options are low speed or extremely expensive. Plus, our high speed internet is limited on data use. This has prevented us from expanding our business and/or adding employees. Our local economy is in desperate need of high speed internet that is affordable.

Sincerely,

Kelley Patrick

Visionary Design Concepts, LLC

Rib Lake, WI 54470

Farrand Andria

From: Karen Schneider <tko54470@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Farrand Andria
Subject: Broadband

[Outside Sender]

Hi Andria,

Rolli Thums spoke at our Town Hall meeting this Wednesday March 9th, 2022 about the upcoming Broadband expansion. I am writing to express the desire of the Board to move forward with this program. Chairman Joe Knorn moved, Supervisor Doug Polacek seconded to approve the County's efforts in moving forward with this project. Motion carried.

Clerk-Karen Schnieder

Thank You,
Karen Schneider
Clerk, Town of Rib Lake
N7500 Timber DR., Rib Lake, WI 54470
715-427-3635

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter to support the Taylor County Broadband Grant application. The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

As a member of the Taylor County Broadband Committee, business owner, and father of 10, I am deeply invested in this project and have been for several years.

We realize the great need this community has for access to the internet and would greatly benefit from this grant in helping us reach our overall goal of affordability and accessibility.

This project would not be possible without the partnership of Taylor County, Wanrack, and Bug Tussell.

I sincerely hope you will consider funding this project in Taylor County.



Stokhaus Media, LLC
James Stokes | Ph: 715.570.5718
www.stokhausmedia.com

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster **deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

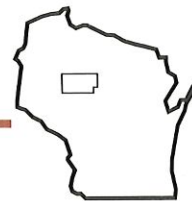
You can add your own comments about how Broadband would help Taylor County, your Town, Village. Also, you can provide and information about how business might helped

We, Mohnton Town Board voted to support
this grant application at our town board
meeting on March 8, 2022.

Lester Lewis, Gary Gretzinger, Trent Harris,
Heather Dums, Marlene Gruenig



Taylor County Board



March 8, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Chuck Zenner. I am on the Taylor County Board of Supervisors.

Three years ago, we created a Broadband Committee to look at the internet service in Taylor County. We discovered that we had the second worst coverage in the state of Wisconsin and found this to be unacceptable.

A feasibility study was conducted. After many meetings and travel to other areas it was decided to hire a firm out of Kansas to install our middle mile network. We needed to borrow 9.5 million dollars to start the project. After discussion and consideration our entire county board unanimously approved the spending. The original project should be completed in June.

At the present time we are working with another firm to bring fixed wireless to the county. Our intention is to provide internet service to county residents by bringing fiber to as many homes as possible. Our goal is to have this project done by the end of 2024. We feel this project is vital for the education of our students as well as many aspects of economic growth of Taylor County. Any funding that you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Zenner
Taylor County Supervisor



1003 Railroad Street, P.O. Box 224
Rib Lake, WI 54470-0224
Phone: 715-427-5201
Fax: 715-427-5882

March 8, 2022

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

Lakewood Credit Union has had a lot of difficulties when it comes to internet services. We currently pay for two providers as neither one is able to guarantee 100% coverage for the credit union. With the new fiberoptic line, we will be able to have one provider and upgrade not only the internet service but also additional features like phone and fax capabilities.

We are also able to upgrade different services regarding our disaster recovery aspects with backing up our systems to ensure we are safe and secure if disaster strikes our credit union. It will change a lot of background aspect regarding how we do business. Our members and community will not notice the difference but our staff will see a huge improvement to how things are done.

We fully support the efforts that Taylor County has been making to help get the fiberoptic line services throughout our county.

Sincerely,

Amy Ketterhagen
President
Lakewood Credit Union

**Village of Gilman
P.O. Box 157
Gilman, WI 54433**

March 8, 2022

To Public Service Commission;

I'm writing this letter of support of the Taylor County Broadband grant Application.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of **76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile**, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing **gigabit** service to homes and business locations along that route. This phase of the project includes additional **last-mile** coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is **"Open Access"** to **encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise**, which encourages **immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses**.

Broadband internet service has been needed desperately in northern Wisconsin for a long time. It is nearly impossible to attract industry and development without high-speed internet access. The Village of Gilman has strived to attract new investment in our community for some time only to be denied this opportunity because we do not have access to internet speeds high enough to serve their needs.

Please consider the pressing need for better internet coverage and approve this grant!

Jane DeStaercke

Village Gilman President

Together
for
Children



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIB LAKE

1236 Kennedy St. P.O. Box 278 Rib Lake, WI 54470

www.riblake.k12.wi.us

#RLSDPride

Board of Education
President: Stacy Tlusty
Vice President: Jason Dananay
Clerk: Jackie Mohr
Treasurer: Amanda Treffinger

Rick Cardey
District Administrator
715.427.3222
715.427.3221 fax

Kirsten Budimlija
Principal
High School/ Middle School
715.427.3220 • 715.427.5446
715.427.5022 fax

Jonathon Dallmann
Principal
Elementary School
Special Ed. Director
715.427.5818

March 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the School District of Rib Lake in support of the Taylor County digital equity project. The funding of this project is a much needed hope for educational purposes, employment opportunities, and families.

When the pandemic hit and school closure was required, our staff and students struggled with the virtual education component due to the large number of students not having internet access or not having quality internet for video conferencing. We also struggled with data limits for the families who did have quality access. Even in year 2 of the pandemic, we still had many quarantined families who requested paper copies due to the internet inequities. Furthermore, our instructional options were also limited for many students by the amount of data and speed that their instructors could access at the same time. As a county, we were ill prepared for this event.

The School District of Rib Lake may also benefit by the fiber optic installation due to faster speed in the classrooms. Although the district has a 1 gb line for internet at 3 buildings, we lose a vast majority of that speed before it hits our district due to poor equipment at the local Frontier hub. We also have some very slow speeds in classrooms. It is very possible that the district will use an open access carrier instead of the government funded Wiscnet due to the faster speeds.

On a personal note, I live 5 miles from Rib Lake and often take work home. I pay \$150 a month for the internet and often have throttled down services at the end of the month due to data limitations. Streaming video on a consistent basis is not possible. Thankfully, I can afford the high cost of satellite internet. This is not the case with many of our rural residents. I am very excited about the possibility of having someone serve us at a reasonable cost and high speeds.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I would be happy to sell you on what your funding could improve in our district and communities.

Sincerely,

Rick Cardey
District Administrator

Board Members: Nicole Glenzer Nicole Scheller Rollie Thums

The School District of Rib Lake is an equal opportunity provider.



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

NWRPC

keeping your future as our focus

*Serving communities within and counties of
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT,
DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER,
TAYLOR, & WASHBURN*

*And the Tribal Nations of
BAD RIVER, LAC COURTE ORIELLES, LAC DU
FLAMBEAU, RED CLIFF, & ST. CROIX*

March 7, 2022

Rebecca Cameron Valcq
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Hills Farms State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way
North Tower – 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53705

Re: Taylor County Broadband Expansion Grant Program Application (Rib Lake - Taylor County)

Chair Valcq:

On behalf of Northwest Regional Planning Commission, I am pleased to support a proposed PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Program application being submitted by Taylor County. The area proposed in the grant application needs fiber-to-the-premise broadband connectivity and has unserved and underserved households and businesses.

The Taylor County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 76.2 miles of fiberoptic middle mile, completing a ring throughout Taylor County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. Taylor County's application for funding includes additional last-mile coverage in Rib Lake, providing complete coverage in the Village. This project is "Open Access" to encourage faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which encourages immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.

The investment proposed by Taylor County and an award of funds by the PSC will provide a significant economic benefit to residents and businesses! Please do not hesitate to contact me at sjohnson@nwrpc.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Johnson
Executive Director